

Directed Research for the BME Ph.D. Program

Reference Guide for BME Students

Resources

- [Independent Study and Directed Research - University Policy 3050](#)
- [Directed Research Application Form](#)

Purpose

BME students must take 3 credits of directed research as part of the BME PhD curriculum. Directed research gives students the opportunity to conduct transdisciplinary research *outside* of their major advisor's laboratory on a topic *not* related to their dissertation work. The directed research must result in a final product that will be shared with the major advisor and the BME leadership team.

Time Commitment

Students should commit a total of approximately 150 hours for their 3-credit directed research project. This works out to ~10 hours a week during a semester. Depending on the nature of the project, students may choose to commit more hours per week over a shorter period of time.

Procedure

1. Work with your major advisor to identify an individual who will supervise your directed research. This supervisor can be a faculty member at Boise State, or be from an external institution, but they must work outside your advisor's laboratory. The supervisor does not need to be a professor, but they should have a terminal degree (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., DVM). If the directed research supervisor is located outside of Boise, the student should work with their major advisor on an agreeable plan to travel to the supervisor's location to conduct the directed research.

Please note - your directed research supervising professor must be a member of [the Graduate Faculty](#) at Boise State. If they are not on that list, you can [submit a request](#).

2. Fill out the Application for Directed Research form. This form will require you to list the title of your research, the methods that will be employed by your supervising professor, and the final product of the research (please see instructions in Appendix).
3. Obtain the signatures of the supervising professor, your advisor, the BME director, and your advisor's department chair (please see instructions in Appendix). If the supervising

professor is external to Boise State, your major advisor will sign on the 'supervising professor' line as well.

4. Send your form to the Registrar's office. Once your form has been approved, the course will be created for you and you will be able to enroll in BME 696. The supervising professor will be the instructor on record, unless they are external to Boise State. In that case, your major advisor will serve as the instructor on record.

After Completion

1. Your 'instructor on record' will be responsible for assigning your grade (pass / fail). If your project supervisor (supervising professor) is at Boise State, they are the instructor and will directly enter the grade. However, if your project supervisor is external to Boise State, they will need to indirectly enter your grade by communicating with your major advisor, who serves as the 'instructor on record' when the project supervisor is not at Boise State. If you haven't completed your project in the semester you intended, a grade of 'incomplete' can be entered. You'll then have one year to complete your project and have your grade changed to 'pass'.
2. Send an email to the BME leadership team (directors and coordinator) to inform them that you've completed your directed research project. Include your final product (e.g., article, report, abstract).

Contacts

- BME Program Coordinator - bmephd@boisestate.edu
- Registrar's Office - regmail@boisestate.edu

Appendix



Clear Form

Application for Directed Research

Student Name		Date
Student ID	BroncoMail Email	
Graduate Program	Catalog year	Anticipated Graduation Date

Instructions

Purpose: A directed research project involves research conducted by a graduate student under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty and also requires: (1) a clear statement of a hypothesis or proposition, (2) a review of the relevant literature, (3) an analysis and synthesis data or scholarly evidence, and (4) inferences or conclusions. The results must be stated in a report written in clear and effective English and *cannot be incorporated into the student's thesis or dissertation*. Any student who has been admitted to the Graduate College is eligible to conduct a directed research project.

Procedure: The student is responsible for completing and signing the *Application for Directed Research* (ADR) form. Once signed by the Professor Directing the Research, Advisor, Department Chair, and Program Coordinator the ADR form should be sent to the Office of the Registrar for final processing by the posted deadline on the Academic Calendar found here.

A reminder that per University policy, this project cannot be incorporated into the student's dissertation.

Directed Research Course Information

Course and grading information

Semester	Year	Course Prefix	Course #	Credits Requested	Grade	
			696		<input type="checkbox"/> Letter grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass/Fail

Title of Proposed Research Project

Statement of Hypothesis or Proposition

Methods to be Employed (attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

Final Product of Research (check all that apply): Report Conference Paper Journal Article Other (describe)

Assessment Method to be Employed by Supervising Professor

Include the name and location of the lab you'll be working,
 Include the reason you want to gain experience with these methods, and why you chose this particular lab and supervisor.

Signatures

Student Signature		Print Name		Date
University Use Only				
Approved	Disapproved			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supervising Professor Signature	Print Name	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advisor Signature	Print Name	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Coordinator Signature	Print Name	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department Chair Signature	Print Name	Date

This is the individual that gives the grade. If the supervisor is outside Boise State, you'll need to input the student's major advisor for this line. The major advisor will then consult with the 3rd party supervisor when assigning a grade..

This is the department chair of the major advisor.